

24th March 1922]

[The President]

4. His Excellency the Governor therefore returns the Bill to the Council for the consideration of the following amendments :—

Clause 6.—At the end, *omit* the words ‘the next succeeding paragraph’ and *substitute* in their stead the words ‘paragraph (v) of this section’.

Clause 9.—For the penultimate word ‘filed’ *substitute* the word ‘instituted’.

Schedule II, article 11.—In column 1, *omit* the words ‘and not otherwise provided for in this Act’.

The hon. Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“Mr. President, Sir, I want to explain to the House the necessity for these amendments. The House will remember that there was an amendment proposed by Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar in which the words ‘as the next succeeding paragraph’ occurred. If there had been no further amendment, there would have been no trouble. But subsequently Mr. N. A. V. Somasundaram Pillai put forward another amendment to insert a new clause—clause 4 (a)—between clauses 4 and 5. That amendment was carried, and now the next succeeding paragraph would be, if the present wording is retained, clause 4 (a) and not clause 5 as was the intention of the House. That is the first amendment. The next amendment has to be introduced owing to a clerical error. The word ‘instituted’ is to be substituted for the word ‘filed’ to bring the language in conformity with the technical expression. In Schedule II, article 11, column 1, the words ‘not otherwise provided for in this Act’ finds a place owing to the mistake of the copyist. If you read article 1 of Schedule I you will find ‘... or memorandum of appeal (not otherwise provided for in this Act)’. It is in order to avoid that, that this amendment is proposed. All the amendments are only verbal amendments.”

The hon. the President then put the following amendments to the House and they were carried :—

Clause 6.—At the end, *omit* the words ‘the next succeeding paragraph’ and *substitute* in their stead the words ‘paragraph (v) of this section.’

Clause 9.—For the penultimate word ‘filed’ *substitute* the word ‘instituted.’

Schedule II, article 11.—In column 1, *omit* the words ‘and not otherwise provided for in this Act.’

III

AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“The hon. Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar wants leave to amend Standing Order 40 as follows :—

‘(1) At the commencement of paragraph (1) of Standing Order 40 *insert* the words ‘The Member of the Government in charge of the Law Department shall ex officio be the Chairman of every Select Committee’; and

‘(2) In paragraph 3 of the same Standing Order, *omit* the first sentence.’

“Does any hon. Member object to it?”

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“I object, Sir.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“Hon. Members who are for the introduction of these amendments to the Standing Orders will please rise in their places.”

Six hon. Members stood up.

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Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"A point of order, Sir. The Council Secretary rises not from his seat but from the seat of another Member. Is he in order?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The rule that Members should rise from their seats is only for the poll. Only six hon. Members are for the introduction of the amendments to the Standing Orders. Therefore the hon. Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar has not the leave of the House."

IV

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I beg to make the motion standing against my name:—

That with a view to the constitution, in pursuance of rule 33 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, of a committee on Public Accounts for the year 1922-23, this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President to elect seven members to be members of the said committee.

"In moving this proposition I should like to express my regret that it has been possible to make very little use of this committee of all the talents for the reason that the function of the committee is to examine the expenditure of the funds voted by the Council and that the accounts dealing with the first budget voted by the Council will not be ready till next September. We have done what preliminary work we could this year and there will be plenty of work from September onwards for the new committee."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I fix 6 p.m. to-day as the latest hour for nomination of candidates for election. If the nominations are sent to the Secretary, the time for the election, if necessary, will be fixed later on."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I should like to know if any nomination forms are to be filled up?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"You have only to write in a piece of paper: 'I propose the following members as members of the Public Accounts Committee' and then fill in the names. The consent of the nominated member should be obtained before nominating him. I fix 6 p.m. to-day as the latest hour for the nomination papers to reach the Secretary so that hon. Members may have time for consultation. If the number of names proposed is equal to the number of seats, then there will be no election."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Would it be possible to give a little more time so that consent may be taken from Members who are not present to-day?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Member nominating can in most cases anticipate the wishes of the Member whose name he proposes; he would ordinarily know whether his nominee would be willing or not. He can act upon that knowledge."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I only made the suggestion, Sir, because I feel responsible in a measure for springing this motion on the Council. There is no great hurry about the election of the committee. It will begin its operations only after April."